

Let there be
LIGHT



"VERITAS VINCIT OMNIA CALVMNIA MENDACTVM"

(Truth conquers all calumnies - lies)



Prepared by

'COMMITTEE OF EIGHTY'

**FRANK J. KATEN, Interim Chairman,
487 State Street, New Haven 10, Conn.**

Published Now
and Then in the
Interest of
TRUTH

Katen Koin Kapers

The Coin House
Organ to end all
such blurbs.
Vol. 1, No. 3
November, 1949

Can't say I stomach the "new deal in ANA convention management" promised in a circular issued by the American Numismatic Association last April 20th soliciting advertisements for the ANA Convention Journal. They promised a "comparatively low Advertising rate" of \$25.00 per page. Arriving in San Francisco for the Convention I found out that the circulation was limited to convention registrations and visitors and anyone who wrote for a copy. Total circulation was **500?-1000?** I compared this "New Deal" with the HONEST DEAL I gave in Boston last year, and it didn't seem to make sense. In Boston we printed and DISTRIBUTED 11,000 Convention Programs at an advertising cost per page of \$30.00. Wonder, HOW COME?

It seems to me, that as long as the American Numismatic Association concerns itself so avidly with the Convention Auction, that it is properly a part of A. N. A. membership. Every member therefore, is entitled to and should have received an ANA Convention Journal and Auction Catalog. **DID YOU?** The answer most likely is NO. Only the names on the active list of the convention auctioneer received the catalog. Even a past president of the ANA did not receive a copy. I cannot help but think of what we did at the Boston Convention. We printed and MAILED over 10,500 Convention Programs and Catalogs. Our Post Office receipt can attest to this. In 1948 the ANA Convention Committee approved my contract with the Boston Committee on the circulation of the Catalog. It apparently was not necessary in 1949. Wonder HOW COME?

I am sure 1950 will be a better year. Three of the new officers have assured me that they will look into, and correct if possible, some of the business that was brought up in the Convention Meetings. Among them were:

1. Reducing the cost of printing THE NUMISMATIST. The printing cost last year was \$31,000.00. The former publishers, J. W. Stowell Printing Co., can and will again print the magazine for

HALF THE COST or less. Incidentally the Stowell Company did not refuse to continue to publish THE NUMISMATIST, but requested they be relieved a month sooner when informed they were losing the account. I hope the new ANA Board of Governors will not again give out a contract of that magnitude without competitive bidding. The Numismatist is now paying TWICE THE COST for a mailing envelope for what we consider an inferior grade.

2. Reduce the necessity of paid travel by ANA officers. Although two resolutions sponsored by the Buffalo-Syracuse and New York-New Jersey Clubs condemning excessive travel were lost on the floor, it is hoped that the new officers will recognize the precarious position of the A. N. A. and act accordingly.
3. Correctly balance ANA books. Transferring from Life Membership Fund and pro-rating one-third the cost of membership directory and library catalog, (both BI-ANNUAL publications) does not appear to be good accounting procedure.

There were many other suggestions made by collectors not voiced at the meetings. Among them were write-in space on the yearly ballots and the mailing of ballots to an independent public accounting firm for tabulation.

To repeat myself, I am sure 1950 will be a better year for the ANA. We must try to regain the 1726 members who resigned or were suspended during the last fiscal year. I have utmost confidence in our new officers to work for the membership at large.

The above statements were submitted to THE NUMISMATIST as a paid advertisement but was turned down due to a ruling against acceptance of controversial material. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in your Association please write your views to "Doc" Wild of Buffalo, or Brother Pittman of Rochester or yours truly. You might ask Doc Wild about being told by one of the Board of Governors "that he would never be elected unless he played ball with the boys." P. S. The good Doc was defeated.

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Vol. 1, No. 4
December, 1949

THANKS for the orchid Dept.: Dear Katen: I was very pleased with the results of our coin sale. It is quite evident your clients have respect for the right kind of material. It is also remarkable that in some cases you were able to obtain over catalog on some items. Perhaps condition was the principal factor in the good results achieved. I shall recommend your sale down at the club where many others have material which they hesitate to "sacrifice." There is something emotional in even a small collection, however, when the collector receives a nice price it compensates for the parting. It seems almost impossible to collect without forming some interest beyond objective facts involved. I am sure you have used discretion in handling what is somewhat ordinary material to many. Perhaps I'll have the opportunity of acquiring more coins in the future, and I will remember your efficient service. Sincerely yours, Signed . . .

We receive a great many letters like the above, but this was so unusual we could not help printing it. As this catalog is going to press the same day the letter was received, we did not have time to obtain the writer's permission to use his name. However, if permission is granted we shall be glad to give his name upon inquiry.

WE HAD BEEN PREPARED to receive some letters with reference to the constructive criticisms and suggestions made in last month's KAPERS, but we never expected an avalanche. **EVERY LETTER RECEIVED AGREED WITH US**, but one—and that we are printing first:

FJK—Why not devote pp. 47/48 of your catalog to what **you** have to sell?

Other letters named names, places and happenings in our Association that require confirmation, study and analysis before they can be aired. Certainly "where there's smoke, there's fire" otherwise so many wellknown and "big" names would not have written as they did. The time has come for serious consideration and thought. Our Association and our Hobby must not suffer. **We must remain united**, even if it means the sacrifice of stepping down from an office or the admission that bad judgment was used in the past. We must avoid any split in our ranks as happened in a national stamp group years ago, with the formation of a second organization. Last year, after another difficulty, a third organization was formed.

We Shall Reprint excerpts from some of the letters. Our future course will depend on what you, the "G. I." member may suggest. Please continue your letters—your name will not be used, unless permission is granted.

From San Francisco, Calif.: I note your comments in your KATEN KOIN KAPERS and can but say your questions "hit the nail on the head" and are of the kind some of us here wanted to put to . . . a year ago, but he purposely evaded being where he could be questioned. There is no doubt in my mind that the A. N. A. conducted the whole matter (convention) in the wrong manner—insofar as impartiality is concerned—but since the ANA "hierarchy" was biased, my personal complaints to the ANA President and "So-called" chairman of the ANA's Convention Committee . . . failed to bring forth corrective measures and constructive and completely informative suggestions and included a rather scathing reply from the ANA . . . as if I was inquiring of matters not of concern to me, so there seemed no chance to get to a responsive authority for corrections.

I do hope the next host gets a better deal, and while there were many good features at S. F. and many seemed pleased, still I personally think the whole overall picture could have been much better, to say nothing of the inadequacies in the Auction Catalogue matter. It seems that . . . wanted it all to his advantage and anyone who dared to question developments was out of order.

. . . Thanking you for your courtesies and hoping through incessant watching the ANA will recognize the will of its common members, I am . . . Sent in by an important member of the Convention Comm.

From Illinois: I was very interested in your remarks about the last convention. I was not present, but hardly needed to be. I could smell "Herring" all the way here in the Middle West. I did get a catalog (wonder of wonders) probably because I like auctions and generally bid . . . Here is something to think over. How about **polling the members** (bold face ours, ed.) at large on opinions for bettering the management of the A. N. A. I will be glad to pay a chunk of the expenses. Best regards, Signed . . .

(Seems to me like an excellent suggestion. I have completed the list of collectors, including all the resignations, and they total about 11,000. I will gladly donate the time necessary in addressing and mailing as well as a sizeable cash contribution toward stationery and postage. Let's hear from others on this).

From Tulsa, Okla.: Re: S. F. Convention. Just such business and Rackets, is what destroys many an organization, Business, Lodge, or "what have you." I am a new member, and "don't know or can't say much"—but do appreciate the information. Signed . . .

From New Orleans, La.: I wish to compliment you in regard to the stand you have taken regarding the A. N. A. Yours truly, signed . . .

From Illinois: We must compliment you on your Katen Koin Kapers page 47 and 48 inclusive. It seems to us that . . . and his ANA confederates lost all sense of common decency and have done more damage than any one else we know of. Glad to see he is no longer . . . for A. N. A. and hope never become A. N. A. . . . in future. Sincerely yours, Signed . . .

From New Jersey: Ex ANA 7911. I resigned because of the dues increase without giving members any increased benefits. At \$3 I would be glad to be a member. Signed . . .

From Washington, D. C.: The 2 items that interested me the most were the ones about the increased cost of printing the Numismatist and the loss of 1726 members—the first total loss of membership since 1933.

In my humble opinion the two go hand in hand. Due to the increased cost of publishing the magazine, the loss had to be made up in some way, so the subscription price was increased to \$5. This was one of the main reasons why so many resigned and so many were suspended for failure to pay dues. This is also one of the reasons why so few new members are being signed up this year. Of course there were other reasons why so many members dropped out, but in my opinion it is more than a coincidence that so many dropped out the year the subscription price was almost doubled.

So if giving the account back to the J. W. Stowell Printing Co. will half the cost, thereby making it possible to reduce the subscription price, what are we waiting for?

As long as I have the floor, I have one more suggestion to make, increase our activity in the line of organizing Junior Coin Clubs. I notice most of the High Schools have Stamp Clubs, so why could we not do the same, or at least try? . . . Cordially yours, Signed . . .

From New York City: I read with much interest your note, in the above mentioned catalogue—"To repeat myself—We must try to regain the 1726 members who resigned or were suspended during the fiscal year." Has anything been done, or is being done, to ascertain the cause for this unprecedented decline in membership in one year? I've been a member of the organization since 1928 but never before has there been such a drastic drop in membership and new applications!

We should encourage the young coin collector to join up with the association. Upon the young blood depends the life of the organization. It is my impression, based upon mature study of the situation during the past several years, that the boost in membership dues to \$5 killed off a large percentage of the membership. It is my humble opinion that the major revenue of the association should emanate from the advertisements of the organ and not from the membership dues. This because the advertisements form such an important source of revenue for the advertisers.

New applications used to run as high as 150 per month. Now they hardly reach 100.

Knowing you to be a member of long standing and reputation, and in view of my own interest in the fortunes of the association, I would be pleased to get your reaction to this apprehensive situation, respecting the alarming decline in membership. Cordially yours, Signed . . .

From Massachusetts: Was interested in your comment on the last A. N. A. Convention. Am physically unable to attend coin meetings and conventions but even from my remote position had wondered what the score was concerning last year's program management. I did not bother to write for a catalog being impressed that it was purely a one lone dealers proposition. Most Sincerely, Signed . . .

From Cleveland, Ohio: AMEN! Your words on Coin (Monkey) Business echo my sentiments. How about attacking the "Big Boys" oyster by amending the Proxy resolutions. Signed . . .

From Fullerton, Calif.: . . . Glad to read your comments on A. N. A. Give me your idea on best method to get back the 1726 "lost" members.

Do you think the election was not carried on properly—or ballots counted right? . . . Best Regards, Sincerely yours, Signed . . .

From West Va.: I was interested in your Katen Koin Kapers. Keep up the good work. I know that all isn't quite right in the ANA and I'm glad to see a "big name" like you working on it. My name is familiar to a lot of collectors but I still don't have much "pull." I'll add a little "dope" to what you have already written. I'm tied up in all of this some way or other but it is not because I am pushing my own aims. (. . .) as I have given up practically all hope of having them accomplished anyway, but because I would like you to learn of a few other things.

I'm afraid there isn't much chance of regaining the 1726 members we have lost—not more than those that merely resigned because of a temporary lack of interest in coins. I have met a couple of members that were pretty well disgusted with the ANA (you've probably met several, traveling more than I do) and had no intention of having anything to do with it again. The reasons are various and while I have been disgusted at times myself, I have no intention of resigning as the only way us true collectors can fight any corruption is from inside the club, not outside through resigning.

Here are some of my complaints: (We are omitting this portion of the letter at this time, ed.).

I could also talk about a number of other things but better sign off. Such as the idea of centralization in the ANA. All officers, etc. in Wichita, Kansas. . . . and that is why the printer was changed from Stowell to the present printer, in case you did not know it. Should I have become . . . I would have had to move to Wichita so I would be there too. I feel this an entirely false idea—a member likes to feel that he has one of the "big shots" in his area too, that he might see fairly often if he attends club meetings.

. . . Best wishes and good luck. Signed . . .

From Cincinnati, O. Under the title "Katen Koin Kapers," you express my sentiments relative to ANA Officers and Board. They all are out to dip their hands in the Reserve treasury and to kill it off finally. Later day members of the ANA will never know how carefully money was penuriously piled up by us old timers, with hope that some day we would be enabled to erect an A. N. A. Building in Washington, D. C. All the raises Frank Duffield received were due to me and he did manage, edit and run the Numismatist, printing and all at the meager salary of \$800. Then \$1,000, then \$1,250, then \$1,500 finally doing then, and what could be done now, by one man's full time.

Instead they hire a Manager, an Editor, a Secretary, with salaries and expense accounts. Any wonder the reserve capital is being expended. The J. W. Stowell Printing Co. did the job of printing the Numismatist at a reasonable price, five years after its inception. Yet these new officers elect, changed printers without the sanction of the membership. Also changed the cover and color thereof. No sentiment left in this crowd of incompetents, of officers elect, until they hang over the brink of bankruptcy.

They are unaware existing companies never change wrappers or covers of periodicals—but with lust of power, they use their personal judgment instead of getting

the consent of the membership. Their memories, if they have any is short. Another bunch of officers changed the blue cover of the Numismatist to a white cover for one year. Then the protests against the white cover made them change back to the blue cover. Now they change the cover again to a sickly tan.

. . . The ANA cannot prosper with a manager in Iowa, an Editor in Washington, D. C., a Secretary in Kansas. Printed in Wichita, Kansas, The Numismatist (Word blurred) have a perfect tower of Babel. Any wonder they are tapping the Reserve Fund.

Keep up your good work, Mr. Katen, it will have its effect. Sincerely, Signed . . .

I regret, space does not permit me to print any additional letters. Please be patient — your letters will be acknowledged personally.

And so to bed (press bed). Boy, pass me the aspirin, please. .

6.

The President of the United States

has been chosen to occupy the highest office in the world; the officers of the A. N. A. have been chosen by the members. They have not placed themselves where they are by themselves. Both the President of the United States and the ANA Officers are but one of us — not one raised above us in any sense. We can laugh with both, at both and talk back to both, that is our constitutional right. The President of the United States tolerates it. The ANA Officers see fit to expel a LIFE MEMBER, deny him Advertising privileges in 'The Numismatist' after giving him one week to answer 'charges' by an UNNAMED MEMBER!

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Katen Koin Kapers

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Vol. 2, No. 1
January, 1950

The Pendulum swings right! Dear Frank: I am herewith enclosing copy of proposed letter to be sent to various printers seeking bids for printing The Numismatist. Will you carefully read it and give me any suggestions relating thereto which I earnestly welcome.

I have a list of ten printers including J. W. Stowell to whom letters will be sent. I shall be pleased to include any additional names that you may suggest. Kindest Regards. Sincerely (Signed, Joe.) Joseph Moss.

Thank you, Judge Moss. This is a step in the right direction—and to repeat what I said in November “I have utmost confidence in our new officers to work for the membership at large.”

In summing up the hundreds of letters received, I should like to list the most important items requiring changes in the present set-up of the A. N. A.

1. Reducing the cost of the printing of The Numismatist. (See above).
2. Eliminate any undue influence between any particular dealer and any officer of the A. N. A. such as existed during the last two years.
3. “Decision of the Board” should be just that. Too many decisions were made last year wherein one member and possibly a second knew nothing about the incident.
4. Eliminate or cut to a minimum travel by officers to local coin clubs. Previous presidents, including V. Leon Belt and Martin Kortjohn paid out of their own pockets any travel incurred by them. One wonders whether the president would come to Connecticut if asked to attend a coin shindig. If he did, then every club who is a member of the A. N. A. could request the same privilege. By the same token—what then determined the importance of travel made during the last two years?
5. Publicly announce the method of awarding the Convention Auction. In his report to the convention in San Francisco, Mr. Gettys said, “I recommend, therefore, that hereafter the auction be awarded by the Association to one of our dealer members, and that no secret commitments to any person or group be recognized in the awarding of the auction.” Two years ago in Boston, I was told by the Boston Convention Committee, which included two A. N. A. members of the Board, that henceforth, beginning with the 1949 Convention, the Auction Sale would be awarded as a result of public bids. Needless to say a west coast dealer got the nod. We now learn that the 1950 Convention Auction was awarded to James Kelly and details were completed at Youngstown, Ohio, on November 5th. **Congratulations, Jim, I know you will do a good job.** But—coins and coin sales are my bread and butter—why wasn’t I asked to bid? Why wasn’t Dealer So and So, in New York asked to bid? Was any other dealer asked to bid? Members of the A. N. A. this is very important to you also—remember San Francisco—then write your officers asking for full information.
6. Every member of the A. N. A. should receive a Convention Auction Catalog and Program if they are one, or should receive both if they are separated. For the first time last year, the auctioneer mailed the catalog to his active list only. For the first time last year the A. N. A. distributed the Convention Program to those attending the Convention in person. (Of course, you could write for a copy) instead of over 10,000 programs and catalogs, the auctioneer printed and sent out a much smaller figure. (The active list of most coin dealers receiving auction catalogs runs from 3,000 to 5,000). Then too, the Convention Committee only distributed at most 500 to 1000 Convention Programs. I repeat what I said last month—If the A. N. A. considers the Auction Program a just part of A. N. A. business, then the G. I. collector should receive both the Convention Program and Auction Catalog.

Quoting Mr. Getty's again: "It is almost impossible to handle the A. N. A. Convention, with its expanded auction and program catalog, without great financial loss. Under present arrangements the numismatic firm underwriting the convention catalog must put out some 13,000 catalogs. This is far too great a load for any member to assume, especially when we realize that bona fide bids will be received from only about 12 per cent of the A. N. A. roster." I wonder what dealers Mr. Gettys contacted to have arrived at that opinion. I know I wasn't asked. I know four prominent dealers were not asked. BECAUSE—I for one would have no fear to print an auction catalog and journal for EVERY MEMBER. Why this solicitation for a dealer's balance sheet?

7. **CHANGE THE BALLOTING SYSTEM.** Have the ballots printed, mailed, and returned to an independent Accounting Company. These ballots to be given to the Ballot Committee at the Convention for tabulation.
8. **The consensus of opinion now seems to be, LET'S CLEAN OUR OWN HOUSE.** We cannot afford an outside investigation. Being under a Federal Charter the investigating body could possibly be the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

We shall print a few of the letters received for your consideration:

From Los Angeles, Calif.: A telephone call from a fine gentlemen and collector. As I am unable to repeat our conversation verbatim, I will give the substance of our talk. "Frank, please soft-pedal the 'Kapers' or you will wreck our organization. I agree in part with what you say, and certainly everything has not been well. But we do not want any investigation. You are going at it the wrong way . . . (more along the same line, FJK)." I have greatly admired this gentleman and consider him a friend. But—what other way was open? Neither The Numismatist nor the Scrapbook will accept controversial matter as an advertisement. To circularize the entire membership is a financial hardship for any individual member, as the postage bill alone would be over \$300.00. HOW THEN could anyone inform the entire membership?

From Los Angeles, Calif.: Just a few lines to let you know that I am in agreement with your suggestions and remarks in the Katen Koin Kapers. I have been wondering how long that sort of thing was going to go on before some one took action.

I have been rather disgusted with it for several years—the San Francisco convention was the climax. In protest I sent in my resignation to the A. N. A. several days ago, and also let them know why. I imagine that sort of condition is the reason of so many members dropping out last year.

If the day comes to pass when the organization is controlled by the membership's requests, I would then like to reinstate myself as a member.

Under the present system the organization is going under a false name. The proper name would be the "A. K. NUMISMATIC GALLERY AND COIN EXCHANGE."

Wishing you and the members quick results, Yours sincerely, (Signed). Ex. A. N. A. #

P. S. You may publish this letter or use my name if you wish to.

From Pittsburgh, Pa.: I was very much interested in your remarks and in previous "Koin Kapers." I agree with you whole-heartedly that the American Numismatic Association is due for a thorough housecleaning. I have thought so for a number of years and believe unless the little clique that has been running things either reform or is broken up, irreparable harm will be done to the science of numismatics. While I personally have no great objection to the increase in the price of membership from \$3 to \$5 per year, I certainly resented, as did many others, the method that was used to put this across. Neither did I approve of the change in the color of the cover of "The Numismatist" and always suspected that there was something "rotten in Denmark" when they took the printing away from Baltimore and sent it way out to Kansas after the old company had printed the magazine for so many years and it seems now from what is coming out, that either somebody has had a finger in the pie or there certainly was some personal reason for making the change. Sincerely, Signed . . .

From Toronto, Canada: As to your write up about the A. N. A. I think that it is outrageous to ask collectors to pay 50c a copy for a magazine that is mainly an advertising agent for dealers. Think I'll quit it. Signed . . .

From Madison, Ind.: I appreciate and want to thank you for the information recently conveyed to me in Vol. 1, No. 3, of your Koin Kapers, concerning some of the proceedings at this year's A. N. A. convention.

I have written to Mr. M. Vernon Sheldon and Dr. John H. Wild asking for further details. With best wishes, I remain, Yours truly, signed . . .

From Charleston, W. Va.: Be nice to know the real inside story on "Kapers talk." This of course, wouldn't do to print, or the split you fear would take place. Can't figure it out as I always had a very high regard for . . . Don't know the rest very well. Signed . . .

From Oakland, Calif.: I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the forthright stand you have taken on the mismanagement of the ANA organization. Possibly this stand will induce some of the other members, who have expressed themselves to me in private, to come to your assistance.

I attended the convention in San Francisco and made an attempt to personally contact the various members of the Board and the officers present. I asked a number of questions pertinent to the operational procedure of the association and without exception was informed that it was none of my business. If this was an example of the manner in which the ANA conducts their conventions, then I will never attend another one. A number of intelligent proposals were made to the committee on resolutions and presented on the convention floor. No action was taken on any resolutions restricting the arbitrary power of the Board nor the officers. Several unique answers were given to questions asked by members present. I was present when a dealer "laid down the law" to a member of the Board in language I would not use under any circumstances and over an incident so trivial that it did not even merit notice.

As a member who bounces five bucks every year, I feel that I am entitled to know what goes on and why, and if any officer or potential officer has anything constructive to offer the membership, now is the time to do so. Let's bring these things out in the open and discuss them intelligently and dispose of them in the same fashion. The officers of this association should be made to realize that a politician is going for one year at a time, while we, as collectors, are going on and on and unless these "under the counter" deals are stopped, they will be. Yours truly, Signed . . .

From Wichita, Kansas: A City official of Wichita who plans to be in New Haven Nov. 6 to 8 is to phone you a message from me. You'll understand why it was not written. If you'll pass along the information to mutual friends back east I'll appreciate it, although several already understand my views. Warm regards, Signed . . .

This city official did visit New Haven and his message (not verbatim, but in substance was): Keep up your work—it will bring results. I have been waiting for the past few years for just some break to occur out in the open. You have the support of thousands of collectors, many reticent in coming out in the open. Good luck. (Thanks, dear friend, we shall carry on. FJK).

From Eldorado, Kansas: Although your catalog was received too late for me to send in a bid, it served the purpose of having me write this letter thanking you for taking a stand for the members' rights in the A. N. A. Like yourself I do not know what is wrong, but something sure is. As to the convention catalogue, I never saw a member of the common herd that received one. I am talking of a meeting we just had in Wichita, Kansas of the Oklahoma and Kansas Association, and I just acted as a committee of one to ask around and the above is the answer. Yours very truly, Signed . . .

From Buffalo, N. Y.: Thanks for blasting away at the A. N. A. powers that be. I and others with whom I corresponded have been pretty much disgusted with certain goings on in the A. N. A. for years: and I promised myself that if the occasion presents itself, I shall publish a competing journal and I also believe that I could bring about the creation of an organization that could rip the A. N. A. in half.

Sometime ago I mentioned to you that I had certain projects in mind. That is what it was.

So you see you have many backers and well wishers! With kindest regards. Signed . . .

From Jersey City, N. J.: A letter received from one of the grand old-young men of numismatics. So many names are mentioned, figures in dollars are discussed and forthright 'calling a spade a spade' that it is impossible to publish unless I have the gentleman's permission to do so. Needless to say every collector knows this man and his word, written or otherwise, is above reproach. There was no time to contact him for this issue.

From White Plains, N. Y.: Have read with interest your comments in the back of catalog #16, and even before I received #17 had been planning to send page Nos. 47-8 along with my dues for 1950 to the ANA. It seems to me that if everyone who had a copy, sent it along, it might show that the membership had noticed the funny business in the accounts of the ANA. I pass this idea along for what it is worth. Was pleased to see all the favorable comments in #17. You certainly hit the nail on the head and I agree with everything you said. Have been a subscriber to The Numismatist since 1935, and have always read over the reports of all the conventions. It seems a shame that all the money that has been built up during the past years has to go the way it seems to be now. Yours truly, Signed . . .

From Boston, Mass.: I wish to use this opportunity to say that I agree 100% with your comments on the back pages of your catalog, re. the way the A. N. A. convention was handled. The whole affair was cheap as members have reported. The Public be Damned seemed to be the attitude of the San Francisco people. (Not the people, friend, but the 'bosses'. FJK). Sincerely, Signed . . .

From Illinois: . . . I am still more than willing to pay some cash toward the printing and advertising bill (polling of members). Best Wishes, Signed . . .

From Akron, Ohio: Have resigned from the A. N. A. over the dues question—will this cancel my Credit Card? Signed . . . (Of course not, the issuance of a credit card by the A. C. D. A. is predicated on credit standing alone, and not membership in any organization. FJK).

From Oregon: Loss of members is due to large raise. Times are getting poor and people resent higher prices when they are getting less. Signed . . .

From New York, N. Y.: Let every member on paying their 1950 dues, do so on condition that they receive the 1950 Convention Auction Catalog and Program. Now is the time to act, BEFORE YOU PAY your 1950 dues. Regards, Signed . . .

THERE ARE MORE AND MORE AND MORE OF THE SAME. We must call a halt for this issue so that the catalog can get under way. I know I am on the right track. Please realize, dear collector, that to have published the first revelations two months ago meant making a great decision. If I was wrong or had a personal axe to grind, it would have meant the end of my coin business, by the loss of confidence and business. However, my bids and business has almost doubled in the last two months. I have made many new friends, and believe me, it has made me feel warm inside.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? It would seem to me that the best suggestion is the one made last month to poll the members with a questionnaire. This will cost about \$400.00, over \$300.00 going for postage alone. I would like to see a Committee of Eighty formed, each contributing \$5.00 towards the cost of this poll. I will supply the addressing, labor and cash contribution towards this end.

Are you interested enough in your association to find out, if possible, what others think? If so, send your letter to me with a check made out to ANA Committee of Eighty. I am leaving for Germany tomorrow (Dec. 1st) and will be gone about two weeks. I could be given no greater Yule present than to find upon my return not eighty, but one hundred, yea even two hundred 'crys' of "Let's fix things ourselves." A public accounting of all money received and spent will be made, and we hope to have 'Papa' Blake, the past treasurer of the ANA for almost thirty years, as our honorary watch dog.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOURS. And now Frances, Idlewild Airport, please.

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Vol. 2, No. 2
February, 1950

Many, many thanks! To those Nice People Who Conducted The December Auction Sale held the day after my departure for Europe. To Frances, who 'bossed' the works; to Albert Dudley, who acted as Auctioneer; to Bob Schneider and George Smith, young executives of the Provident Loan Society who acted as tellers. These two men have just finished a six-months basic course in coin evaluation in our shop. Our thanks too, to the Society for having chosen our firm for their entree in the coin banking business.

Re the ANA Situation. Although absent from our office 23 days in December, the necessary holiday interruptions, our January Sale, and copy for our February (this Catalog) Sale has tended to make us fall behind in our correspondence, we have nevertheless, been able to digest all letters that have reached us. These are pyramiding monthly, for besides letters, we are now receiving notarized documents and statements from irate ANA members. The criticism centers on three personalities, namely, the Ex-President of the ANA, Mr. Lloyd Gettys; the Secretary, Mr. Lewis A. Reagan, and a coin dealer.

The Window of any organization is the Secretary's post. When the holder of this post becomes tired, too old or just plain 'mad at the world'—when all the plain 5 bucks a year 'joes' are all out of step but him (the secretary)—then, say these letters, it is time for that individual TO RESIGN.

IT — WOULD — GO — A — LONG — WAY — TO — RESTORE — HARMONY — IN — THE — ANA.

A Meeting could follow such resignation and an honest attempt made to correct many of the "gripes" now plaguing our Association. I am sure that the present Board of Governors could bring about such a meeting. I am sure that the three members of the board who have not had one word of criticism against them (excepting to act as rubber-stamps) would have guts to demand such a meeting — BUT—say these letters—only after the second of the trio above mentioned is out of office.

HOW ABOUT IT, B. of G's? — YOUR MEMBERSHIP THINK IT FAIR!

Mr. Lewis A. Reagan, Secretary of the A.N.A. as recently as several months ago wrote to a Pennsylvania member (who had written him with reference to the 'Kapers') that as he was only paying \$5.00 a year and if he didn't like the Association he could resign. In another letter by Mr. Reagan he says "Any member, with no more than three (or five) dollars of his own money involved who feels inclined to make such a fuss about such things is taking himself too seriously." Here are two shining examples of "inefficiency" and "complacency" quoting from letters received from the **ANA Committee of 80**. And this committee is growing rapidly, as from here out we shall not name the locality of the writer of any letter to us. Mr. Reagan has guessed at a number of the writers—and guessed rightly—and in letters to them has berated their action and made statements about yours truly. We, of course, expected them. All we can say at this point is to advise Mr. Reagan to read the left-hand masthead of this blurb and to make sure his statements are in the same vein.

To quote further: "In listing the names of nominees running for election it has always been the custom to arrange them alphabetically. On page 421, June 1947 Numismatist under the listing of candidates for President—Gettys is listed ahead of Douglas. It is a well known fact that a name heading a list has a decided advantage as same is usually checked by those who do not know the candidates and

hence have no particular choice. This advantage is well known to politicians who are always elated when their party is listed on the top line of the voting machine. When this faulty listing was called to the attention of Mr. Reagan he blamed same on to "the farmer of a girl working for me who doesn't know what it is all about." Yet, in one of his letters he states that his secretary receives a salary of \$150.00 per month, fair pay, I would say, for a "farmer girl."

On the same page referred to above under the heading of First Vice President, Mitchell's name is followed by the word "Accepted." On page 472 of the July 1947 Numismatist following Mitchell's name is the word "Declined." On page 565, of the August 1947 Numismatist following Ralph Mitchell's name is the following explanation "this nomination was incorrectly listed in the July issue as 'Declined.' The error was typographical and is regretted." A typographer is a printer and a typographical error is therefore an error by the printer. This, I agree is possible but it could also have been done to gain a purpose. The fact of the matter is that the damage was done in the July issue and the correction made in the August issue when no doubt practically all of the ballots had been sent in except those carried to the Convention by delegates. It is true that an offer was made to Mitchell to send a card to every member explaining the error which I am told he declined, but this again was done when it was too late to rectify the damage done.

Still quoting: Those who have had occasion to refer extensively to the 1948 Numismatist Membership Directory have no doubt discovered many of the errors which abound from cover to cover. Some names listed alphabetically do not appear under the listing by city and state. Some listed under the latter are not listed under the former. Names of members have been omitted in the membership listing and others in the geographical list. (One in New Haven in both lists, FJK) In the February 1949 issue of the Numismatist two-thirds of a page corrects but a few of the many inaccuracies. Streets are on occasions misspelled. As a whole the directory looks more like the effort of a "farmer girl" than the work of a college professor.

More recently (page 42, January 1950 Numismatist) General Secretary was obliged to extend his apologies to six members who had been reported as Deceased. Five of these six should have been reported as Resigning and the sixth as being reinstated.

Another incident in which the General Secretary may (or may not) bear the responsibility is the issuance of a device not provided for in the By-Laws, which specifically states that a brief biography of each nominee shall be published in the Numismatist. This device was the printed biography of nominees with their ages which many believe was done to show Mr. Blake's advanced age (which incidentally was overstated), hoping thereby to be able to defeat him. Something inexplicable happened when Mr. Blake serving twenty-seven years received 2,373 votes when elected (when the votes were probably not all counted) in 1948 and only 616 when defeated in the last election. Note on page 671 October 1948 Numismatist—Gettys and Reagan each got over 3000 votes. Sheldon, Klein, Blake and Hammer all approximately 2300. **Who stopped counting votes?**

On the matter of the proxy vote much information has reached me. Mr. Reagan appears to contradict himself in his statements. In one he says, "Some naturally took it for granted that I was intimating a call for a proxy vote when actually none was intended." A little later however, he says, "I did threaten to call for a proxy vote. In Buffalo, when the matter of the presidential medals was being discussed. I was in favor of the motion to award a half ounce of gold to any living ex-president . . . and while some of them are still living. Should have been done long ago. These men served the Association well, gave their time and personal funds in generous measure. Each time one of these medals is awarded it costs every member of the Association about three-tenths of one cent. That is not too high a price . . . or is it? I did not favor the striking of these medals in bronze for general distribution, as had been proposed, and I had no hesitation in saying so, and I could (and would) have defeated the proposal if it had not been withdrawn. I have used my proxy power at various other times but not in an open meeting. (Bold type ours. FJK) Some members with various proposals have approached me privately to see if such proposals would have my support or opposition if presented to the convention. In many cases I have told them that I would approve; they were presented and passed

without much discussion or a proxy vote. In other cases I have had to say that I do not approve; I told them why and they agreed. They were not presented. (Bold type ours, FJK)

A contradiction is presented:—Previously Mr. Reagan had said, “. . . . I have no wish to act for any considerable number of members without knowing specifically what they want. I do not presume to know that.”

That's one for the books! ANA members—youse guys with only 5 bucks—read those last dozen lines or so over again. **THINK ABOUT IT!** Perhaps that is why one member in a notarized statement said, **“The exalted Mr. Reagan.”**

Here is your opportunity to join the ANA COMMITTEE OF 80 and get in on the final showdown. Send your letters, if you have another 5 bucks send that along too,—No names, No localities—no identities. Money used for postage and letter-head and envelope printing only. All labor in addressing 10,000 past and present members, any expenses in connection with Katen Koin Kapers plus a cash contribution will be my personal ‘bit’ for a clean American Numismatic Association. Mr. Blake will be coaxed into holding our money and any excess can go to the March of Dimes, Heart Fund or Damon Runyon Fund. Send your letters—and you take your choice.

STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE ABOUT OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT, Secretary of State and other high public officials. Is there any proof that ANYONE is above reproach? Are not some of our former high public officials in prison at the present time and are others not more than likely to go there in the near future?

Statements have been made in the Katen Koin Kapers that questionable incidents have occurred — incidents like —

- a. Placing Gettys' name on the ballot ahead of Douglas, when everyone knows the advantage of being the first one on a ballot.**
- b. Using a printed document to give brief biographies of the candidates, a device never before used, and contrary to the provisions of the by-laws which cover the point in question.**
- c. Stating ages, again not provided for in the by-laws.**
- d. Overstating the age of Mr. Blake who was soundly defeated, but who had won walking away in about 27 preceding elections.**

Statements like these ARE SUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE and/or substantiated by letters received and retained as documentary evidence which will be produced at the proper time.

A. N. A. MEMBERS MAY FORM THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS!

Published in
the Interest of
TRUTH

Katen Koin Kapers

The Coin House
Organ to end all
such blurbs.
Vol. 2, No. 3
March, 1950

Correction, please. In the November 1949 issue of the 'Kapers' we made a statement that the Stowell Company would again print 'The Numismatist' for half the cost or less. As of the date this is written, February 15th, I would like to explain that statement. Mr. Stowell, of course, did not make that statement, and, although he printed my catalog, he personally does not do the proof-reading. In my talks with Mr. Stowell during the past year we had always discussed tentative figures on the basis of the circulation at the time he was printing the magazine. Since then, up until 6 months ago, membership had grown appreciably and the circulation figures with it. Naturally the cost of printing would be increased proportionately.

Compare the actual figures, and the ANA would still effect a tremendous saving in changing our printer: For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949, the ANA paid \$31,115.56 for printing plus \$1,239.25 for mailing envelopes, exclusive of photographs, cuts or postage. This made a grand total of \$32,354.81. The bid submitted by the Stowell Printing Co., on a two-year contract basis would save the ANA **\$7,154.81 PER YEAR.**

CAN WE AFFORD TO OVERLOOK SUCH A TREMENDOUS SAVING?

Tying in with the above is a letter read at the San Francisco Convention by Mr. John J. Pittman of Rochester, N. Y. The contents of this letter was referred to and commented upon in the October 1949 issue of The Numismatist, pages 597 and 598, but the contents never divulged. **Who censors the minutes of the convention?** The letter is herewith printed in full:

"To whom it may concern:"

"This is to certify that The Numismatist magazine which we printed and distributed for about 27 years, out of a clear sky was taken away from us, and given to another firm in Wichita, Kansas. The excuse was that the service was so bad and the correspondence was so far that it could not meet the requirements, hence it was taken away as stated."

"We were always in a position to give the Numismatic Association the best for the least and we cannot see why we cannot continue to do so. We know that we can save the A. N. A. from \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00 a year. I think that such a great amount of money be taken into consideration and I don't think that the promptness which they say is lacking can compensate for that amount of money."

"We propose to accept the printing of the magazine again. I think it is only fair that we should have the chance to discuss it with the Board of Governors as well as the President and put it up to them, if it was fair in the way this matter was handled."

"We would appreciate that you take this particular case under advisement before the Board of Governors or the newly elected Board as well as the Business Managers and all those present at the Convention for discussion."

Signed: J. W. Stowell Printing Company
By: John W. Stowell, Jr.

Many questions are being asked. "Why were not the minutes of the San Francisco Convention fully and accurately reported?" "Why was it necessary for an ANA Life Member to use the medium of his auction catalog, in order that the entire membership be informed of what was happening?" "Why has it taken the new Board of Governors so long to consider bids—a letter written by a member of the Board of Governors dated January 26, 1950 states, "All the bids will shortly be considered by the officials of the ANA . . ."

I had hoped to 'coast' this month on the ANA situation. There were several considerations. Primarily, I was hoping that the ANA higherups would have by this time written me or other ANA members in an effort to sit down and adjust whatever differences may exist. No such communication has been received. The other considerations were of a business nature. Business has been very good both retail and mail, thus leaving little time for writing auction copy or preparing for my

fine February Sale, just two days off. The third factor is my departure Tuesday for Europe. Again by American Overseas Airlines, this time besides Germany, my itinerary will include Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and London. By your bids and letters you have told me what you want in coins.

BUT—It's later than you think! Time is passing and ACTION IS NEEDED!

On February 3, 1950, I wrote Mr. M. Vernon Sheldon, President of the ANA as follows:

It has come to my attention that you have offered * to treat in editorial form, a two page letter written by Mr. Charles W. Foster and dated December 28, 1949. This letter was to be given preparatory assistance by Col. Moss and the editor of The Numismatist.

As a member of the American Numismatic Association, I respectfully request to learn whether the policy affecting "controversial issues" on material published in The Numismatist has been changed. Some months ago, a full page advertisement was refused by your business manager, Mr. Burton Saxton, on grounds that controversial matters could not be aired in The Numismatist. Inasmuch as you are now offering to use Mr. Foster's letter in an editorial, it occurred to me that the above policy may have been changed and if so would appreciate being advised. Sincerely yours, (Signed) Frank J. Katen.

I have not had the courtesy of a reply after 12 days.

I REPEAT—It's later than you think! Take the case of a national stamp organization that had 'trouble' within, last year. A new national society was formed and already they have **3000 members** and are recruiting at the rate of 300 a month. Shall this happen to the American Numismatic Association? Cannot the 'big brass' of the ANA really become big in stature and face the facts by laying the cards on the table? Cannot the 3 members of the board of governors who were said not to be rubber stamps for the officers, get action? Or have they too, become rubber stamps?

Just Asking. Wonder how far behind our secretary is in reporting resignations in The Numismatist? I have three letters before me from members who have resigned, but have not yet seen their names reported. Here is a typical one: "Dear Frank: Your catalog came too late for any bids—I received it the 5th. (January). It did **not** come too late for me to carefully read your quotes etc. regarding the ANA. I sent them my resignation this date. I'll consider rejoining if your crusade is successful." (Signed)

Another letter: Your "Kapers" are getting to the point more solidly, and when I see the screaming from _____ (surrounded by _____!) for **no investigation**, then, we can't help but feel that you are hitting "vital spots." No wonder they say "no investigation!"

I recognize some of the other words used as to who they come from, particularly one from _____, as I was told those same words myself by the one who wrote them, (_____) so there is no doubt but that the truth is being told.

I think you are also right in getting these opinions aired, as no monthly publication would accept them, for in the case of the ANA the people who would censor such matters are the ones who need to reform for the good of the A. N. A.

_____ recently wrote me that when he sees me next spring up this way he would have some words for me to swallow! I wrote back that I saw no reason to swallow any words, since my many letters of protest and attempts to find out what, why and when, were in quest of the truth over the past 2 years.

With a continuous show of interest by the members at large from all parts of the country "you'll soon have 'em dancing Kapers!" (Signed)

Some Excerpts on the Committee of Eighty. ". . . but I am not so new as not to know that there's something screwy some place and the "convention mess" was a (or the) pay off. Am sending along \$5.00 to the Committee of Eighty. Sorry I was not a bit earlier." (Signed) _____ "Please add my \$5.00 to the Committee. Keep punching . . ." (Signed) _____ ". . . and my \$5.00 is enclosed. If you wish to name names and places, just say the word." (Signed)

* Offer was declined by Mr. Foster.

I could go on but I am getting very tired, and still have much work to do, before I leave for Europe six days hence. In closing this issue I would like to do so on a happier vein and can think of no better way than to quote a letter and a few comments:

Dear Mr. Katen: This is the first time I have been able to bid at one of your auctions, and it is such a beautiful sale that I feel a few lines are necessary. German coins are my specialty, for several reasons, and this sale is the finest I have ever seen offered. While a relatively young collector (with a young pocket book) I have only bid on coins I felt I could really afford, and my quotes may be slightly low on a few, so please forgive me. I spent 3 years in Berlin with the Military Government and so your "Double Impressions" were deeply appreciated. While there I dealt exclusively with ——— (American Sector) and thru him really started my collection off to a good start as far as quality of coins is concerned. Did you perhaps see him while in Berlin?

Now for a little flattery (which I think you deserve). I have received several auction catalogs from you and they all seem to have a very nice variety of coins to select from. You seem to have by far, the best German coins to offer and this amazes me. I would sure give my right arm to know your secret of how you acquired the coins in this sale.

I have one request I would like to make. As I said before, my "young budget" often makes it impossible for me to bid at one of your auctions. If I may ask it, I would like to pay for your catalogs whenever it comes to the point of your having to drop me because of lack of business. I will say that I bid almost entirely only on coins of Germany and so I often bid very little because there are so few (until this sale) around. But your catalogs are so nice to use as references for a project I am attempting that I would really hate to be cut off the list.

I hope I haven't bored you, and I extend a very sincere congratulation for your sales and service ("Kapers") that you extend all over the country by or thru your catalog. It has impressed me greatly and I shall endeavor to reciprocate in my way by bidding. (Signed)

Thanks for the bouquet! You and thousands of other 'g. i. collectors' prompted me to have painted on my door "The Nicest People Pass Thru This Door" and that means in person or by mail. Confidentially, a 50c prices realized list keeps a collector on my mailing list for 6 months.

QUOTES: I enjoyed reading about your trip overseas. It must have been a wonderful experience . . . Believe you are the only dealer putting out the duplicate bid sheet and tied together for handy use with a carbon. Us collectors notice and appreciate these little extras. With kindest personal regards . . . I like your new catalog . . . Glad you had a fine trip—If your 'beefs' are correct and for the good of the Association, I'm behind you 100% . . . This is one of your best catalogues yet. Like the arrangement. Keep it up . . . Many, many thanks, 'Frank.'

So here we go again, second time within three months—to Europe that is. And if we can bring back something for you, perhaps a lace shawl for Aunt Mathilda, please air-mail your request to Frances. She will forward it to me. At the risk of being repetitious, and now Frances, Idlewild Airport, please.

Let's Clean House!

RETURN THE ATTACHED QUESTIONNAIRE

WITH YOUR CHOICE FOR A

NEW SLATE!

Published in
the Interest of
TRUTH

Katen Koin Kapers

The Coin House
Organ to end all
such blurbs.
Vol. 2, No. 4
May, 1950

The Numismatist of March 1950, on page #162 stated that the 'Executive Board' concurred with the recommendation of the 'Publications Committee' and voted that the printing of 'The Numismatist' remain with the current printer, in Wichita, Kansas.

This is flagrant mismanagement and a direct violation of the A. N. A. Federal Charter which specifically says that control, by-laws and regulations shall be vested in a board of five governors. Flagrant mismanagement because the A. N. A. will spend \$7,154.81 **MORE PER YEAR** based on last year's figures for printing 'The Numismatist.' This is the increase in dues of 3,577 members. A violation of the A. N. A. Federal Charter because nothing is said about an Executive Board. Who are the Executive Board? The President and the First Vice President—With the supposedly legal ruling body of the 5 Board of Governors acting as mere rubber stamps????

This same president, M. Vernon Sheldon, who has not had the common business courtesy to answer my letter written him February 3rd, siezed the opportunity while I was in Europe to write my office stating that charges had been preferred against me. These 'charges' brought by an unnamed ANA member or members enumerated 11 statements which have appeared in previous issues of the 'Kapers.' The 'Charges' follow:

1. 'The former publishers, J. W. Stowell Printing Co., can and will again print the magazine for Half The Cost or less.'
2. 'Incidentally, the Stowell Company did not refuse to continue to publish The Numismatist, but requested they be relieved a month sooner when informed they were losing the account.'
- 3a 'Under the title 'Katen Koin Kapers' you express my sentiments relative to ANA Officers and Board. They all are out to dip their hands in the Reserve treasury and to kill it off finally.'
- b 'Neither did I approve of the change in the color of the cover of The Numismatist and always suspected that there was something 'rotten in Denmark' when they took the printing away from Baltimore and sent it way out to Kansas after the old company had printed the magazine for so many years and it seems from what is coming out, that either somebody has had a finger in the pie or there certainly was some personal reason for making the change.'
- c 'Like yourself, I do not know what is wrong, but something sure is.'
- d 'Thanks for blasting away at the ANA powers that be. I and others with whom I corresponded have been disgusted with certain goings on in the ANA for years.'
- e 'The officers of this association should be made to realize that a politician is going for one year at a time, while we, as collectors, are going on and on and unless these 'under the counter' deals are stopped, they will be.'
- f 'A typographer is a printer and a typographical error is therefore an error by a printer. This, I agree is possible but it could also have been done to gain a purpose.'
- g 'a device not provided for in the By-Laws.—This device was the printed biography of nominees with their ages which many believe was done to show Mr. Blake's advanced age (which incidentally was overstated), hoping thereby to be able to defeat him.'
- h 'Something inexplicable happened when Mr. Blake serving twenty-seven years received 2,373 votes when elected (when the votes were probably not all counted) in 1948 and only 616 when defeated in the last election. Note on page 671 October 1948 Numismatist—Gettys and Reagan each got over 3000 votes. Sheldon, Klein, Blake and Hammer all approximately 2300. Who stopped counting votes?

'Decision of the Board' should be just that. Too many decision were made last year wherein one member and possibly a second knew nothing about the incident.

Has free speech been abolished in the ANA? You collectors who recognize your letters in the above quotes—sorry, I should say 'charges'—are you going to stop writing because some anonymous member says you can't?

I was given 10 days to 2 weeks (a violation of our Federal Charter) to present an answer. I cabled Mr. Sheldon from Rome asking for the same length of time from my arrival in the states on the 23rd. He wrote back giving me until the 31st, or only one week's time, and as everyone knows I had a two-day auction sale on the 24th and 25th. My attorney wired him on the 30th asking for a reasonable extension of 30 days, and requesting the name of the person or persons making the charges, asking for an open hearing, with opportunity to present evidence, face and examine the person or persons complaining, either in Chicago or other reasonable place, agreeable to Mr. Sheldon.

This request was denied by Mr. Sheldon. His letter to my attorney was written the day following the telegram. Certainly the 5 members of the Board of Governors could not have been consulted as required by our Federal Charter, unless of course he spent ANA funds by calling each one on the telephone. The letter incidentally showed that only Mr. Moss, first vice-president was getting a copy. Again I repeat, have Mr. Sheldon and Mr. Moss become the Executive Board? Perhaps that is why one A. N. A. member before last year's election wrote, 'I am afraid that you will have plenty of trouble with Sheldon, etc. . . .' How true of this prediction!

I cannot understand—or perhaps I do—why it was that 'charges' against me were made during my absence in Europe. On February 10th I attended a coin club meeting and spoke to a senior ANA Board member. I felt that some action should be forthcoming from the ANA big brass, but requested of this Board member that it not be instituted while I was abroad, but await any action until my return. If this Board member was consulted on the proposed action against me I feel sure he must have requested a delay until my return. The president was informed of my departure thru my 'Kapers' and the numismatic journals. Perhaps the Board Member was over-ruled, but this is only conjecture as us ordinary 'G. I.' members know nothing of the workings of the ANA big brass.

The A. N. A. it seems to me, is violating its Federal Charter by its own By-Laws and Regulations. They have brought 'charges' presented by a member or members whose names need not be divulged, but if I am to present my defense I would be obliged to divulge the writers of 8 of the statements of which I am 'charged.' THIS I WILL NOT DO until my accusers are brought face to face with me. What are they ashamed of? You ANA members who have written me during the past four months, although not requesting confidence, will not be sold 'down the river.' And while on this subject I was told that someone had intimated that I would 'be bought' before the August election and everything will be 'smoothed over.'

I wish to publicly state that I, Frank J. Katen, will not relent one iota from the campaign that I started, until conditions which have been mentioned are corrected, and, I might add, that these conditions will not be corrected until the AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is given back to the members—those same members that the secretary Mr. Lewis Reagan thinks take themselves too seriously for three or five dollars a year. To change these conditions means a clean sweep of our elective officers, with an entirely new slate for 1951.

The Modus Operandi for a new slate for 1951 is now being blue-printed. It begins with reprinting the 'Kapers' from the November issue and to include this present number, in a booklet of about 24 pages. This booklet will include any additions that may be contributed as well as a questionnaire. It will be mailed to approximately 8000 ANA members and collectors who are on my 'inactive' list and who probably do not know what has been going on. Up to the present time only about 4000 collectors have received my catalogs and 'Kapers,' these collectors being those interested in auctions. What a powerful message 8000 booklets can get across! Just

in time too, because it is no coincidence that the big brass are going into action. Did you know that APRIL is the magic month for ANA politicians? The president issues a call for nominations during the month of APRIL.

You can help in this work by sending in a check for \$5.00 and becoming a member of the 'Committee of Eighty.' The cost of this initial printing and mailing will be about \$400.00 and any deficit will be borne by me. No names, identities of location, etc. will be made of the donor. Many thanks for checks already sent in, including that fine contribution of \$25 by a club.

Worthy of Special Consideration is the following letter just received:

THE KANAWHA VALLEY COIN CLUB

Charleston, West Virginia

Affiliated with American Numismatic Association, No. 13708

March 20, 1950

A JOINT LETTER TO ALL A. N. A. MEMBERS

We have been observing a very serious situation developing for some time between the present officers of the American Numismatic Association on the one hand, and a prominent coin dealer in conjunction with some A. N. A. members on the other side.

It is our consensus of opinion that if the present course of the two parties is pursued in its present form it can lead only to a continued rivalry and ill feeling. The method of approach to a solution that is being taken by both sides is entirely inadequate to a return to harmony within the membership of the American Numismatic Association.

We do not propose a solution, but one method might be; A committee chosen by the two factions of equal numbers. For example, let each side select two men. Let these four men select an impartial fifth man to serve as chairman of this committee.

This committee of five men could proceed to conduct public or private hearings between the parties concerned.

This matter is more serious to the Association, and the A. N. A. members are the association, than is generally realized. The continued friction in its present form can lead only to a permanent rupture and division of the membership.

The Kanawha Valley Coin Club hereby goes on record as being an impartial observer in this matter.

Respectfully submitted

KANAWHA VALLEY COIN CLUB

President (Signed) M. E. Miller

Secretary (Signed) E. P. Smith, Jr.

A similar approach was suggested by us in the February 'Kapers.' A similar approach was made a number of times privately by interested members unbeknownst to me. All were turned down by the A. N. A. big brass. They do not want an investigation!

The Kanawha Valley Coin Club is to be congratulated on its courageous stand. Other clubs should write and express their views. Do not forget—The Clubs are the backbone and strength of the A. N. A. Do not forget that the A. N. A. chose APRIL to bring 'charges' against me, in order to becloud the issue that charges have been made against them during the last four months. Do not forget that this same month APRIL is when these same officers are asking you to send in nominations!

Refuting the West Coast dealer who wise-cracked in his rag that we had been repudiated by the grand 'old man' of the A. N. A. is the following letter. For obvious reasons we had not published it before, but do so now without comment.

GEORGE H. BLAKE

12 Highland Avenue

Jersey City, N. J.

Dear Frank Katen:

November 14, 1949

I received your catalogue of Sale Nov. 4th too late to send any bids, but the Pages 47 & 48 very much interested me. You and I, both were 'also rans.' I, too, offered an advertisement asking votes for myself and four others, including you, and sent a signed check, blank amount to be filled in, but everything was returned with the explanation that the Board had instructed that no electioneering advertising be accepted. . . . I told Gettys that his administration had been the most wasteful and extravagant of any we ever had. According to my figures as Treasurer, six to seven thousand dollars had been spent for travelling around the country, and for what? Everything was done legally 'by order of the Board.' Gettys was President and the Board at the same time. I would not impugn his honesty, but he was on the wrong track. The Secretary was a willing tool, as he did not want to lose his job.

In regard to myself, they knew that I did not approve of the wasteful spending which was going on, although I said nothing about it to them, until the last. They steered the election so that I received the smallest number of votes cast. Even Kortjohn who ran against me, came and told me he could not understand how he received more votes than I. I cannot but feel that there was some underhandedness going on for at one of the past elections I received more votes than the president, who was elected.

I am not now greatly concerned over the matter for I expected to resign the office if elected, after a decent time had elapsed.

Kind regards to Mrs. Katen and yourself.

Yours truly,

(SIGNED) George H. Blake

As this is about to go to press I am in receipt of a short communication which may well be entitled 'The Kangaroo Court Speaks.' The letter follows:

Dear Mr. Katen:

April 11, 1950

Upon due examination of the charges filed against you by members of this Association, the Executive Board of the American Numismatic Association has voted your expulsion from membership in the American Numismatic Association as of April 8, 1950.

Very truly yours, (Signed) Lewis M. Reagan, Secretary to the Executive Board.
Copies to Executive Board.

This action was expected and steps are now being taken to allow my unnamed accuser(s), Mr. Sheldon, Col. Moss and the rubber stamp 'Board' every opportunity to answer in the United States District Court in Washington, D. C. They will be given the rights guaranteed every citizen of this country of 'his day in court'—a right denied me and guaranteed by the ANA Federal Charter.

Do not however, fall for the obvious manouever of the above gentlemen in attempting to divert your attention from the main issues. These are among others

1. Flagrant mismanagement in not saving the A. N. A. \$7,154.81 per year by changing printers.
2. Correctly balance A. N. A. books. Two issues are the Life Membership Fund and the cost of the membership directory.
3. Change the balloting system. Ballots should be printed, mailed, returned to and tabulated by an independent accounting firm.
4. Abolish or modify the proxy system.

In the meantime you can help yourself and your organization by nominating and VOTING for an entirely new slate—you can help yourself and your organization by sending your proxy **ONLY** to a friend who is to attend the convention, not an officer—you can help yourself, your local clubs and your national organization by talking and criticizing, when necessary—Remember, you can still criticize the President of the United States although apparently not the exalted president of the American Numismatic Association.

LET'S GIVE THE A. N. A. BACK TO THE MEMBERS AND A LAWFULLY CONSTITUTED BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

As for me—Thanks for your support—see you next month—same time—same place.

RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE—NOW!

PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS AS AN A. N. A. MEMBER!

THESE MEN ARE THE PRESENT A.N.A. OFFICERS

OFFICERS

President—Mr. Vernon Sheldon, 451 Wrightwood Ave., Chicago 14, Ill.
First Vice President—Col. Joseph Moss, 1201 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 7, Pa.
Second Vice President—Leonel C. Panosh, P. O. Box 1773, San Diego, Calif.
General Secretary—Lewis M. Reagan, P. O. Box 577, Wichita, Kansas
Treasurer—Harold R. Klein, P. O. Box 272, Hinsdale, Ill.
Librarian—Present incumbent, a very capable man.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Vernon L. Brown, Chase National Bank, 46 Cedar St., New York 15, N. Y.
Dr. J. Hewitt Judd, 1020 Medical Arts Bldg., Omaha 2, Nebraska
Charles L. Ruby, 308 N. Marwood St., Fullerton, Calif.
C. H. Ryan, 57 Montague St., Brooklyn 2, N. Y.
Richard S. Yeoman, 3619 Graceland Blvd., Racine, Wisc.

And are responsible for the spending of \$7,154.81 More Per Year, based on last year's figures, for the printing of THE NUMISMATIST.

★ ★ ★

SELECT A NEW SLATE

RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE PROMPTLY TO

**FRANK J. KATEN, Interim Chairman, 'Committee of Eighty,'
487 State Street, New Haven 10, Conn.**

My choice for President is

My choice for Vice-President is

My choice for Second Vice-President is

My choice for General Secretary is

My choice for Treasurer is

My choice for Librarian is

Committee believes T. R. Hammer, present incumbent, very capable.

My choice for 5 members of the Board of Governors are (1)

(2) (3)

(4) (5)

Tear out and mail

	Yes	No
Are you in favor of an open hearing to find out why the Officers of the A. N. A. are spending \$7,154.81 more per year in printing The Numismatist?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you believe the cost of the Membership Directory should be spread out over 3 years, when the publication has been issued every 2 years? ..	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you believe the Life Membership Fund should have been transferred to General Funds as was done last year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you believe that yearly ballots should be printed, mailed, returned to and tabulated by an independent accounting firm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you believe that the proxy system should be abolished or modified from the present system of giving the General Secretary control of the voting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you believe you should receive a copy of the ANA Convention Auction Catalog, whether or not you are an active bidder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you believe you should receive a copy of the ANA Convention Program whether or not you attend the Convention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MAIL THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IMMEDIATELY SO THAT THE RESULTS OF THIS POLL MAY BE REPORTED IN THE JUNE ISSUE.

*We believe the A. N. A.
should be given back to
the members and a
lawfully constituted
Board of Governors*

THE NUMISMATIST

Supplement to the Issue of July, 1950

Personal Data on the Candidates

Article V, Section 3, of the Association's By-Laws requires that a brief biography of each candidate be published in *The Numismatist* in an issue prior to the election. The closing date for the July issue is prior to the closing date of acceptance of nominations, and the ballots are mailed and usually returned before the August issue is received by the members. The Executive Board has authorized and directed that this data be published in a detached supplement and mailed with the ballots. The data given below was furnished by the candidates.

For President

JOHN JAY PITTMAN. Age 37. Residence, Rochester, New York. Chemical Engineer. Member since 1943. Life Member 152. Member Junior Coin Club Committee 1949. Member Annual Assay Commission 1947. Past President of Rochester Numismatic Association. Member American Numismatic Society and Canadian Numismatic Association.

M. VERNON SHELDON. Age 48. Residence, Chicago, Illinois. Manufacturing Mechanical Engineer. Member since 1929. Life Member 49. General Secretary, 1938-1944. Board of Governors, 1944-1947. First Vice President, 1947-1949. President 1949-1950. Member of Index Committee, Illustration Slide Committee, Library Committee, several others. Author of numerous articles published in *The Numismatist*. Member of American Numismatic Society, Chicago Coin Club, and many other local and regional societies.

For First Vice President

MRS. OPAL H. MORRIS. Age 43. Residence, Homewood, Alabama. Member since 1936. Life Member 73. Member of Proxy Committee 1948. Past President and Secretary of Birmingham Coin Club. Member Southeastern Numismatic Association.

COLONEL JOSEPH MOSS. Age 63. Residence, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Lawyer. On staff of Judge Advocate General during World War II. Legal Counsel for the Association. Member since 1937. Life Member 165. Board of Governors 1946-1949. First Vice President 1949-1950. Chairman of Numismatic Agency Committee, Chairman Resolutions Committee in 1941 and 1942. Member of By-Laws Committee, and others. Author of several articles published in *The Numismatist*. Fellow in American Numismatic Society. Member of local clubs in Philadelphia, Washington, Brooklyn, New York, Wichita.

For Second Vice President

LEONEL C. PANOSH. Age 56. Residence, San Diego, California. Accountant. Member since 1940. Life Member 208. Second Vice President 1949-1950. Member of numerous committees. Secretary of the California State Numismatic Association since its organization. Member of San Diego Numismatic Society (President 1949), Bay Cities Coin Club, Pacific Coast Numismatic Society, The Society of Medalists, and others.

For General Secretary

ROBERT H. LLOYD. No personal data furnished.

LEWIS M. REAGAN. Age 46. Residence, Wichita, Kansas. University Professor. Member since 1935. Life Member 56. Director of Publicity, 1937-1944. General Secretary since 1944. Member of numerous committees. Author of various articles published in *The Numismatist* and other numismatic publications. Member of more than fifty local and regional numismatic organizations. Listed in *Who's Who in America*.

For Treasurer

NORMAN BRYANT. Age 44. Residence, North Haven, Connecticut. Insurance Agent. Member since 1936. Author of "The New Haven Mint." Member American Numismatic Society. Member (Past President and Past Treasurer) of New Haven Numismatic Society.

HAROLD R. KLEIN. Age 36. Residence, Hinsdale (suburb of Chicago), Illinois. Vice President and Cashier of First National Bank of Hinsdale. Member since 1937. Life Member 75. Second Vice President 1947-1949. Treasurer, 1949-1950. Member Chicago Coin Club, Central States Numismatic Society, Central Illinois Numismatic Society, and others.

For Board of Governors

REV. ANSELM BROBURG. Residence, Providence, Rhode Island. Member since 1945. District Secretary for Rhode Island 1948-1949. President of Coin Club of Rhode Island since 1947. Member of American Numismatic Society, Boston Numismatic Society. Member of Annual Assay Commission 1950.

COL. JAMES W. CURTIS. Age 37. Residence, Springfield, Illinois. Psychologist. Member since 1946. Life Member 220. Assistant Chairman National Coin Week 1950. Chairman Central States Numismatic Society convention 1950. Author of United States Pattern Coin Handbook, U. S. Pattern Coin Prices 1946-47, Vanishing Varieties, Romance of Pattern Coins, Blind Man's Nickel, and others. Member of Central Illinois Numismatic Society (President 1948-1950), Central States Numismatic Society (Board of Governors 1949-50), American Numismatic Society, Life Member Numismatic Society of India, Chicago Coin Club (Vice President 1950), Canadian Numismatic Association. Member of Egypt Exploration Society, Metropolitan Museum of Art.

JOHN S. DAVENPORT. No personal data furnished.

OSCAR H. DODSON, Captain, U. S. Navy. Age 45. Residence, Urbana, Illinois. Professor of Naval Science, University of Illinois. Member since 1933. Member Smithsonian Institution Committee 1947. Chairman Junior Coin Club Committee 1949. Chairman Numismatic Textbook Committee 1949. Member A.N.A. Convention By-Laws Committee 1949. Author of occasional articles in *The Numismatist*. Fellow of American Numismatic Society, Member of Boston Numismatic Society, New York Numismatic Club, Baltimore Coin Club, Washington Numismatic Society (President 1948). Member Annual Assay Commission 1947.

F. STEVENS EPPS, M.D. Age 47. Residence, Charleston, West Virginia. Physician-Oculist. Member since 1939. District Secretary for West Virginia 1940-1949. Member of Election Committee 1947. Chairman of Heath Literary Awards Committee 1949. Founder and first president of Kanawha Valley Coin Club. Member of Canadian Numismatic Association.

J. HEWITT JUDD, M.D. Age 50. Residence, Omaha, Nebraska. Professor and Chairman of Department of Ophthalmology, University of Nebraska College of Medicine. Member since 1937. Life Member 62. Member of Board of Governors since 1945. Member Illustration Slide Committee. Author of articles on Pattern Coins. Fellow of American Numismatic Society, Royal Numismatic Society. Member of Omaha Coin Club, Central States Numismatic Society, Iowa Numismatic Association, others.

REV. EDWARD W. W. LEWIS. Age 34. Residence, New York, N.Y. Minister of Central Park Baptist Church. Member since 1944. Life Member 214. Chairman, National Coin Week Awards Committee 1949. Won First award in National Coin Week Participation 1948. A.N.A. Club Representative for Westchester County Coin Club 1949-50. Article contributor to *The Numismatist*. Member of Westchester County Coin Club (President 1948, 1950), American Numismatic Society, New Hampshire Collector's Club.

CHARLES L. RUBY. Age 49. Residence, Fullerton, California. College Professor (of Law and Economics). Member since 1944. Member of Board of Governors 1949-1950. Chairman of Library Committee 1949-1950. Member of Awards Committee, Textbook Committee, National Coin Week Committee, Resolutions Committee. Author of several articles in *The Numismatist* and other publications. Past President of Fullerton Rotary Club. Past President and Secretary of Orange County Coin Club. Life Member of California Coin Club, Pasadena Coin Club, California State Numismatic Association, Central States Numismatic Society, and others.

CECIL HOWARD RYAN. Age 49. Residence, Brooklyn, New York. Auctioneer and Executive of Railway Express Company. Member since 1943. Life Member 126. Member of Board of Governors 1949-1950. Member of Convention Committee 1947-1949. Member of Election Committee, 1948. Member of American Numismatic Society, Royal Numismatic Society, New York Numismatic Club, New Hampshire Collectors Club, Orange County Coin Club. President, Brooklyn Coin Club.

C. C. SHROYER. Age 55. Residence, Toledo, Ohio. Electrical Engineer. Member since 1934. Life Member 211. District Secretary 1948-1949. Past President of Toledo Coin Club. Past President and Member of Board of Governors of Ohio State Numismatic Society. Member of Board of Governors of Central States Numismatic Society. Member of Allen County Coin Club.

JOHN H. WILD, M.D. Age 67. Residence, Buffalo, New York. Physician and Surgeon. Member since 1940. Life Member 195. General Chairman of 1947 A.N.A. Convention held in Buffalo, New York. Past President, Buffalo Numismatic Association. Chairman of Executive Committee, Buffalo Numismatic Association, 1945-1949.

RICHARD S. YEOMAN. Age 45. Residence, Racine, Wisconsin. Executive of Whitman Publishing Co. Member since 1940. Life Member 84. Member of Board of Governors since 1946. Chairman, Publications Committee, 1945-1949. Chairman, National Coin Week Committee, 1945. Member of various other committees. Author of Guide Book of United States Coins, Handbook of United States Coins. Author of numerous articles in *The Numismatist* and other publications. Fellow of American Numismatic Society. Member of local clubs in Racine, Chicago, Milwaukee, Brooklyn, Missouri, Iowa, California. President, Central States Numismatic Society, 1948-1950

Mailing of Ballots delayed by extension of time for receipt of personal data from candidates.